

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00176 221606Z

70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 056341

R 220014Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3415

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELIZE 176

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BH

SUBJECT: DISPUTE WITH GUATEMALA AND ACCESSION OF BELIZE TO
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

1. SUMMARY: GUATEMALA/BELIZE DISPUTE HAS FOR PAST TEN DAYS
FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN DISCUSSION BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND NEWS
MEDIA OF ANTICIPATED ACCESSION BY BELIZE TO TREATY ESTABLISHING
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY. END OF SUMMARY.

2. LAST ISSUE OF "THE REPORTER" (A BUSINESS ORIENTED, INCREASINGLY
ANTI-GOVERNMENT WEEKLY) CHARGED THAT PREMIER PRICE HAD MOVED TO
TAKE CONTROL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS PART OF PLAN TO ACHIEVE "INDE-
PENDENCE THROUGH THE BACK DOOR," AND THAT ONCE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO WAS "SAFELY IN PREMIER'S HANDS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO
STOP HIM FROM MAKING A PRIVATE DEAL WITH GUATEMALA ON THE FUTURE
OF THIS COUNTRY." STORY BASED ON RECENT PUBLICATION IN OFFICIAL
"GAZETTE" OF BRITISH CROWN'S LETTERS PATENT, THE INTENDED EFFECT
OF WHICH WAS TO ENABLE A BELIZEAN MINISTER TO SIGN INSTRUMENT OF
ACCESSION TO CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY TREATY.

3. RESPONSE TO ABOVE ALLEGATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED A
HIGH PRIORITY ON GOVERNMENT'S TIME AND RESOURCES. PREMIER, IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BELIZE 00176 221606Z

SPEECH TO HOUSE FEBRUARY 15 INTRODUCING ACCESSION RESOLUTION,

INCLUDED TOWARD THE END OF A LENGTHY, BUT WELL-REASONED ARGUMENT FOR ACCESSION, A RESOUNDING DENIAL OF CHARGE THAT LETTERS PATENT COULD BE USED TO GAIN INDEPENDENCE OR TO HAND BELIZE OVER TO GUATEMALA, FOLLOWED BY, "BELIZE BELONGS TO US, BELIZEANS, NOT TO THE U.K., NOT TO GUATEMALA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY, AND AS WE HAVE SAID SO OFTEN, AND REPEAT NOW 'THE SOVEREIGNTY OF BELIZE IS NOT FOR NEGOTIATION.' OUR VERY DETERMINATION TO ENTER INTO THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY IN OUR OWN RIGHT SHOULD MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT WE STAND BY THIS COMMITMENT WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION."

4. MARCH 19 ISSUE OF "BELIZE TIMES" (PRICE'S OWN NEWSPAPER) CARRIED AN EXCERPT FROM PREMIER'S SPEECH, INCLUDING ABOVE CITED QUOTATION, ON FRONT PAGE, AS WELL AS AN EDITORIAL COUCHED IN LANGUAGE EVEN STRONGER; E.G. "YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT A FOREIGN COUNTRY WHICH CLAIMS BELIZE WOULD OBJECT TO BELIZE'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY BECAUSE IN THIS REGIONAL GROUPING THERE IS AID AND PROTECTION. GUATEMALA'S CONFRONTATION WOULD NOT BE ONLY WITH BELIZE BUT WITH THE WHOLE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AND WITH THE FRIENDS OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY -- ALL THE REGIONAL BODIES OF THE AMERICAS."

5. RADIO BELIZE HAS FOR PAST FEW DAYS INCLUDED ABOVE QUOTATION (PARAGRAPH 4) IN NEWS BROADCASTS SEVERAL TIMES A DAY, IDENTIFYING IT, HOWEVER, AS A QUOTATION FROM PREMIER'S SPEECH TO HOUSE (WHICH, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL TEXT OF LATTER, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE).

6. COMMENT: SURPRISINGLY VOCIFEROUS REACTION TO "REPORTER'S" FLIMSY ALLEGATION DOUBTLESS ATTRIBUTABLE TO ELECTION YEAR POLITICS. ELECTIONS NOT YET SCHEDULED BUT THEY MUST TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 5, AND CAMPAIGN HAS, IN FACT ALREADY BEGUN. CONSENSUS OF QUALIFIED OPINION HERE IS THAT PRICE'S PARTY STANDS TO LOSE SEATS BUT SEEMS CERTAIN OF CONTINUED MAJORITY CONTROL. GOVERNOR POSNETT TOLD ME YESTERDAY HE THOUGHT PREMIER MIGHT BE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL PRICE OF ACCESSION TO CARICOM TREATY; HOWEVER, ANOTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR GOB PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IS THAT THE "REPORTER" STORY IS SO PATENTLY ABSURD PREMIER IS SEEKING TO MAXIMIZE ITS BENEFICIAL EFFECTS BY PROLONGED COUNTER-ATTACK. IN ANY CASE, EPISODE INDICATES PREVAILING POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE HERE IS UNSETTLED, UNPREDICTABLE AND PROBABLY UNPROLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BELIZE 00176 221606Z

PITIOUS FOR ANY PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT OF BELIZE/GUATEMALA DISPUTE THAT MIGHT BE PUT FORWARD PRIOR TO BELIZE ELECTIONS.
GAWF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENTS, INDEPENDENCE, PRESS COMMENTS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEMBER ADMISSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELIZE00176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740062-0171
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740324/aaaaavti.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISPUTE WITH GUATEMALA AND ACCESSION OF BELIZE TO CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
TAGS: PFOR, BH, GT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005